

POLICY 0440 Motor Vehicle Air Bag Deactivation

Issued October 19, 1998

Motor Vehicle Air Bag Deactivation

The Department of Management and Budget (DMB) prohibits air bag deactivation and the installation of air bag off/on switches in State provided vehicles.

Requests for exemption from this policy shall be made in writing to the Director of Vehicle and Travel Services, DMB. Requests will be reviewed and decisions made by the Director of Vehicle and Travel Services on a case-by-case basis. Accommodation will only be considered in those cases where the driver meets the following eligibility requirements defined by the U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA):

- Medical Condition. The driver has a medical condition which, according to his or her physician:
 - causes the driver air bag to pose a special risk for the driver; and
 - makes the potential harm from the driver air bag in a crash greater than the potential harm from turning off the air bag and allowing the driver, even if belted, to hit the steering wheel or windshield in a crash.
- Distance from Driver air bag. Despite taking all reasonable steps to move back from the driver air bag, the driver is not able to maintain a 10-inch distance from the center of his or her breastbone to the center of the driver air bag cover.

State Agencies and individual State employees may not request authorization directly from NHTSA to deactivate air bags or to install off/on switches in State provided vehicles. Only Vehicle and Travel Services is authorized to seek NHTSA approval for air bag deactivation or the installation of off/on air bag switches in State provided vehicles.

Public Act 431 of 1984, as amended, §213 and §215.

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